



Friday  
July 22, 2011

# Weekly Views



The Correctional Industrial Facility held a PLUS graduation for 47 offenders. Dave Liebel, Assistant Director of Religious Services and Community Involvement, served as the guest speaker.

Miami Correctional Facility Superintendent Mark Sevier was invited to a gathering with Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman to check out the renovated train bridge which is a part of the Nickel Plate Trail. Nickel Plate officials and construction personnel were on hand to show off the new bridge which goes over the Wabash River and will hook the north and the south part of the trail together in Peru, IN. The facility has been an integral part of the trail's construction, contributing more than 26,000 hours of offender labor. (see photo left)

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) conducted a Staff Assembly to update staff on recent events at the facility and to recognize employees for various achievements. Correctional Officer Jessica Hammack was recognized as the facility's Employee of the Quarter, and PCF Accountant Susan VanHoy was named as the facility's Supervisor of the Quarter. K-9 handlers Donald Mockler, Eric Hammond, and Jeremiah Norris, were recognized for commendations received in connection with assisting local law enforcement authorities in response to a bomb threat at Pendleton Heights High School on June 2, 2011.

The Wabash Valley Building Trades class presented a new play house to the Indiana United Christian Academy in Dugger, IN. "Beautiful, much more than I expected!" said Pastor Chip Langley when he arrived on grounds to take delivery of the play house, which will be enjoyed by over 30 students. The "house" was made entirely of scrap materials from previous projects. Ivy Tech instructor Jeff McNeely said his students get hands on training for gainful employment upon release and the added benefit of doing something positive for the community. (see photo below)



Sergeant Rhonda Thomas Hardy from the Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility was awarded Facility Employee of the Quarter by her peers for the months of July through September.

The master gardeners of Chain O'Lakes made their first delivery of Spinach, Swiss chard, Leaf Lettuce, Onions, Radishes and zucchini and Sweet Basil to the Nobel County Food Bank. Donations will be made weekly as different produce readies for harvest

Miami Correctional Facility's American Legion Post recently earned more than \$9,000 from a food sale. The group partnered with Dominos Pizza and Hostess to sell breadsticks, pizza, Twinkies, Sno Balls, Cupcakes and pies.

More than 4,000 items were sold. Dominos used seven stores to prepare for this sale. Several staff, 26 legion members and two PLUS offenders helped with the sale. A portion of the profits will be donated to local charities.

Pendleton Correctional Facility K-9 Handlers Brantley Ferguson, Eric Hammond, Sean Reger, and Jeremiah Norris recently conducted a K-9 demonstration at Anderson University for participants of the Indiana State Police Youth Camp.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility donated 23 pounds of vegetables to the Edinburgh Senior Citizen Food Pantry. The pantry serves about 150 families each month. They serve collected food items to families in need on the second Saturday and last Thursday of every month. They have welcomed our approach to partner with them and stated it will be a great help to the town of Edinburgh. (see photo right)

The Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility donated over 150 pounds of fresh vegetables that were harvested from the facility's resident-run garden to Second Helpings, a food rescue mission. Among the vegetables donated were cucumbers, cauliflower, broccoli, leaf lettuce, and tomatoes. The garden includes tomatoes, bell peppers, jalapeño peppers, watermelon, cantaloupe, pumpkin, cabbage, beans, celery and other fruits and vegetables.

